



# **An Introduction to the APHIS / BLM Wild Horse and Burro Partnership**

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# Today's Topics

- Who is APHIS
- What is the APHIS/BLM WH&B Partnership
  - History of Partnership
  - Who, What, When and Where
  - examples of activities on-the-range, gathers, facilities, adoptions, post adoption compliance



- Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

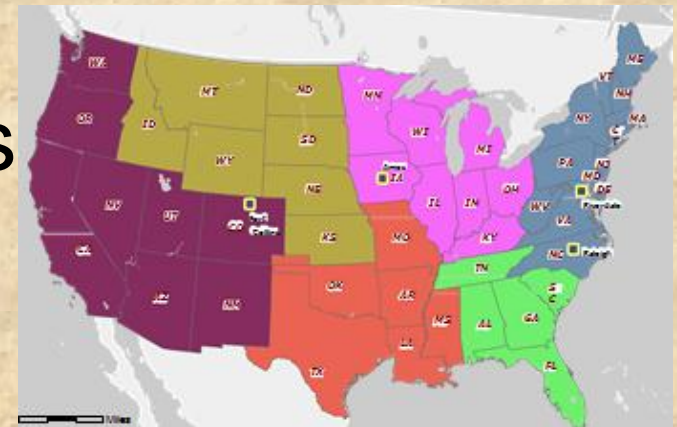
- **Veterinary Services**

- Surveillance Preparedness and Response Services

- ~ 200 Veterinarians


- ~ 100 Field Veterinarians

- ~ 25 with WH&B training & experience





# APHIS/BLM Wild Horse and Burro Partnership

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- 1996 brainchild of Dr. Katie Blunk and BLM's Joe Stratton
    - Drs. Goeldner, Cordes, Hatcher
  - since 1999, MOU
    - reimbursable agreement

# APHIS / BLM Partnership

- MOU started in 1999
  - BLM utilize APHIS (primarily VS) for assistance & consultation re. health and handling of WH&B
  - initial emphasis on local support for field activity
- MOU established Reimbursable Agreement
  - BLM pays for APHIS' work after it is done
    - salary, travel, per diems, supplies etc.
  - no year \$\$ stay at BLM after they are obligated
  - BLM billed quarterly *after* the work is performed



# *APHIS / BLM Partnership*

- offers BLM
  - National network of unbiased veterinary expertise
  - field work
  - National Program activity
- offers APHIS
  - “one health” opportunity to be more active in horse industry
- offers animals
  - enhanced care and handling



# Components of Program

- Range
- Gathers
- Facilities
  - on and off range
- Adoptions & Sales
  - compliance, titling
- policy, research





# APHIS / BLM Partnership

## 2 Parts:

### 1) National Program Office Activities

- a) Policy and Procedures
- b) Facilities

### 2) Field Work

- a) BLM State Offices
- b) Facilities
- c) WH&B Specialists in field





# *Examples of the APHIS Partnership*

- animal health
  - policy
  - communications
- regulatory guidance
  - regulatory support
- humane complaints
- gather support
- compliance work



# APHIS on Range

- assist with research projects
- NPO tours to evaluate animal and range condition and help triage gather needs
- respond to concerns re. disease situations
- consult with welfare of individual animals





# APHIS @ Gathers

- 1° observe and document animal care / handling
- consultation on emergency care and euthanasia
- facilitate compliance with animal health regs
- consult on emergency first aid
  - triage for private practitioner
- assist with research sampling





# APHIS in Facilities

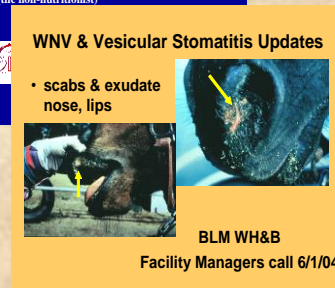
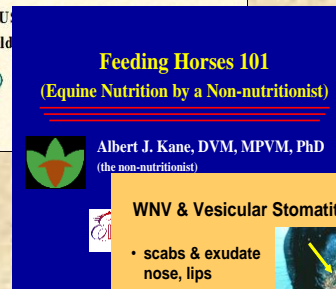
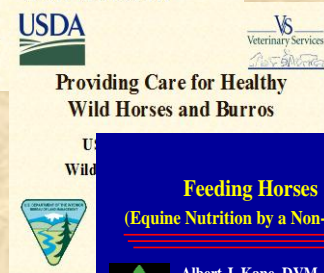
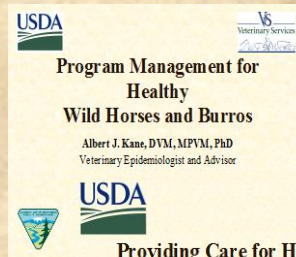
## *Health and Welfare*

- assist with problem investigation
- second opinion, consultations
  - mortality, infectious dz
  - TPEC review
- assist with ORP visits
- facility design
  - inspection of new facilities



# APHIS @ Adoptions

- educational programs
  - for BLM, adopters, public



**America's Mustang  
Event with EMM  
July 10, 2015  
St. Louis, MO**



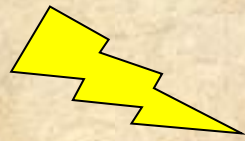
# APHIS & Compliance

- adoptive homes checked by APHIS
  - where BLM has limited resources
- title inspections
- complaint investigations
  - education
  - rapid response

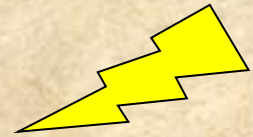




# Today



# *Change*



- **APHIS responds to changes in the WH&B Program needs and requests**
  - initially focus on animal care and field activities
- 2003 emphasis on research and NPO support
  - National WH&B Research Team
- 2009 increased APHIS support of gather activities
  - Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program
- 2014 more consultation at facilities
- in the future APHIS will continue to assist the Program as requested and whenever possible

# QUESTIONS P

